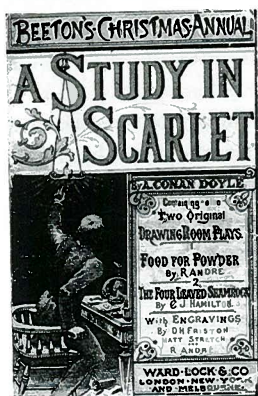


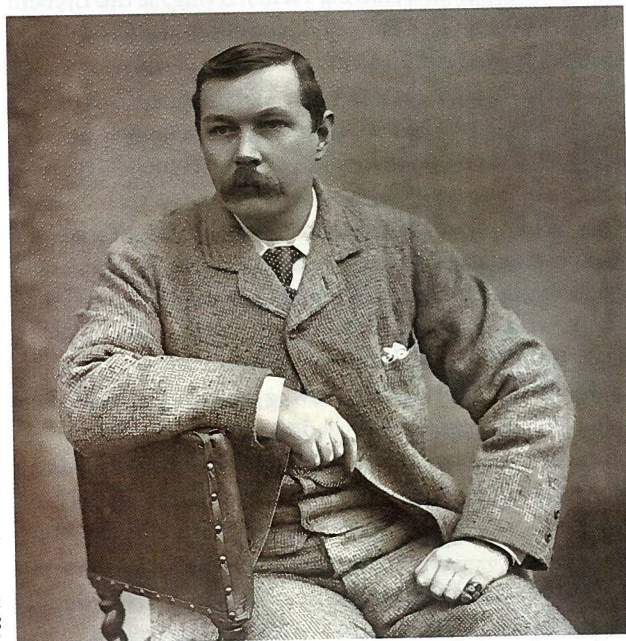
ture and, according to biographer Andrew Lycett, beguiled her children with her storytelling. Marking the sesquicentennial of Conan Doyle's birth, Edinburgh held a marathon of talks, exhibitions, walking tours, plays, films and public performances. Harvard University sponsored a three-day lecture series examining Holmes' and Conan Doyle's legacy. This past spring, novelist Lyndsay Faye published a new thriller, *Dust and Shadow*, featuring Holmes squaring off against Jack the Ripper. And last month, of course, Holmes took center stage in director Guy Ritchie's Hollywood movie *Sherlock Holmes*, starring Robert Downey Jr. as Holmes and Jude Law as Watson.

A persuasive case can be made that Holmes exerts just as much hold on the world's imagination today as he did a century ago. The Holmesian canon—four novels and 56 stories—continues to sell briskly around the world. The coldly calculating genius in the deerstalker cap, wrestling with his inner demons as he solves crimes that befuddle Scotland Yard, stands as one of literature's most vivid and most alluring creations.

Conan Doyle's other alluring creation was London. Although the author lived only a few months in the capital before moving to the suburbs, he visited the city frequently



Conan Doyle (below: c. 1890, c. age 31) hoped his first novel, *A Study in Scarlet*, published in 1887, would gain him a place in literary London (opposite: map with sites associated with Holmes and his creator, including, left, the still-elegant Langham Hotel). "I knew that the book was as good as I could make it," the author would later recall, "and I had high hopes."



P. 59: AP IMAGES; AKG-IMAGES